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EN FENG FOR 1955

Our readers will remember that in 1955 we were getting very little first hand information m the churches in China. In particular, the embargo on Church magazines was practically mplete. Afterwards in 1956 and 1957 we were able to secure a fairly complete file of Tien ng, from which much of the news in our Bulletin was drawn. Now the Missionary Research rary has secured a bound copy of Tien Feng for the last half of 1955. The news in it is her old, but there are some things that are worth calling to the attention of our readers, in ler to fill in the picture. This volume also begins with a Table of Contents for the first half ar, thus showing what were the dominant interests in January-June, 1955.

That was the time when the writer Hu Feng was liquidated, and church people were all re- red to hold meetings to discuss the case. There are many articles, both in the first half and the second half year, dealing with this subject. At the meeting in Nanking Disciples leader her Shao admitted that at first he couldn't see why they should bother about a matter that med to concern only professional writers, but after further study he realized that the principle volved was of nationwide importance. Finally, however, in the September 5 number, the edi- announces that they have so much material to print against Wang Ming-tao that they will ve to stop printing articles on Hu Feng.

It was during this half year that Wang Ming-tao was arrested in Peking (August 8, 1955; October 10, 1955, Bulletin). There is a tremendous amount of anti-Wang material in this lume, and it is evident from the Table of Contents that the barrage had begun in the first half the year. Church groups all over China held condemnation meetings. There are detailed re- rts of such meetings in Mukden, Tientsin, Nanking, Tsingtao, Wuhan, Changsha, and many er places. These reports are made in a quite uniform style. First the date and place are ven, and then it is stated that someone (often a Religious Affairs Bureau representative) outlines case against Wang Ming-tao, and then one by one all the church leaders in that meeting who oke against Wang are mentioned, and a few sentences of their accusation quoted. This man- of reporting naturally causes much repetition.

I could not find any place in this volume where Wang's arrest was actually announced. is is in striking contrast to Tien Feng's treatment of Catholic Bishop Ignatius Kung's case; big adlines are used to announce the latter's arrest and imprisonment. A number of articles also mit that there is widespread sympathy for Wang Ming-tao among the Christians. (It is possible t these facts are not unrelated.)

ued bi-weekly to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. ormation from Chinese church magazines and other Chinese sources is passed on as objec- ely as possible, with a minimum of interpretation. When interpretation is necessary, it is en- sed in parentheses as the comment of the editor. ANNUAL RATES: Domestic, $2.00; Over- s, Firstclass $4.00, Secondclass $3.00. Airmail $5.00 in 15¢ zone, $7.00 in 25¢ zone.

Preceding the July 1954 Protestant Conference in Peking, a delegation of five leading Protestants called on Wang Ming-tao to insist on his attending the Conference. The delegation consisted of Episcopal Bishop Robin Chen, Methodist Bishop Z. T. Kaung, and Pastors Marcus Cheng, Chu Kwei-sheng, and Hsieh Yung-ch'in. Pastor Wang would not even see them.

In addition to the articles reporting accusation meetings, there are many articles by Chri tian leaders (Kiang Wen-han, H. H. Tsui, T. C. Chao, Bishop K. H. Ting, etc.) in which th charges against Wang Ming-tao are presented in more detail. These are: that he really is an i perialist, he opposes that Three Self Movement and tries to destroy it, and he hates Communis These points are substantiated by many quotations from his magazine and other publications. One quotation that appears again and again is to the effect that the Three Self people in chargi all missionaries with being imperialist agents were far too indiscriminate. They ought rather t analyze missionary contributions, admit what is good and point out where the imperialist ele- ments lie. As it is, they confuse their church members so that the latter do not know what to b lieve. Actually, he says, much of what you call the poison of imperialist thinking is nothing more nor less than the word of God.

Wang Ming-tao's article on "We, Because of Faith Alone", which has appeared as an Occasional Bulletin of the Missionary Research Library, comes under frequent attack in these articles. The writers point out again and again that Wang's attitude is the result of his persona antipathy to Communism, rather than the result of any religious faith. (The reasoning seems t be: since our religious faith does not lead us to any such conclusions, no one else's religious faith could either.)

The severity of the attack varies widely in different articles. One medical student who had been a member of Wang's church publishes his accusation under the title "I Bitterly Hate Wang Ming-tao." (One wonders how a Christian magazine could accept such a title for public tion.) On the other hand, Bishop K. H. Ting's article is much more moderate, and ends with an appeal for love and understanding.

Wang Ming-tao's influence was especially strong in the Medical College which we still think of as PUMC. There is therefore a spate of accusing articles from staff and student body o that organization, including one six-page article by Dr. Cheng Pi-ju.

The campaign against Wang Ming-tao had far-reaching ramifications. As far away as Canton there was a whole group under the leadership of Lin Hsien-kao who are described as fol lowers of Wang Ming-tao. One of the articles against them begins with the editorial note that the information is drawn from a fortnightly magazine published by the Canton Three Self Move ment, The New Situation. The nature of Lin's preaching may be judged from the accusation that he identified the Gog of Ezekiel 38 with Malenkov, and prophesied that Russia would join with Eastern Germany in an attack on Israel, whereupon England and America will attack and defeat Russia, thus fulfilling the biblical prophecy.

There was a very considerable upheaval in Nanking Theological Seminary over this ques tion. A number of students were staunch supporters of Wang Ming-tao. They are accused of fomenting trouble, especially attacking professors of liberal theology, and thus promoting dis- unity within the school. Finally four of the ringleaders were expelled, and two others allowed withdraw. A number of others were put on probation on their promise to reform.

Besides the very substantial amount of printing done by Wang Ming-tao in Peking, inclu ing books and pamphlets and his Spiritual Food Quarterly Magazine, a number of his supporters in Shanghai also opened a publishing office there. They wished to reprint the Spiritual Food Quarterly, but could not get registration permission for publishing a magazine. So they got around this difficulty by publishing the material in booklet form four times a year, but leaving off any date, just giving serial numbers to the successive issues of this Sacred Anointing Series. All of this is exposed in the December 12 Tien Feng, where it is stated that the latest Sacred Anointing volume had been published after the exposure of the crimes of Wang Ming-tao and Lin Hsien-kao. (Presumably this means too after their arrest, though again nothing is said here of their arrest.) The writer of this four and a half page attack on Sacred Anointing notes that the editor of that latest volume had not learned anything from what had happened during the summer, but stubbornly added interest to principal in his maintenance of the Wang Ming-tao position.

The history of the church for this half year also includes other attacks apparently unrelated the Wang Ming-tao question. One of the most curious is a criticism of a True Jesus Church in han, where the church leaders had apparently attempted to cure a person mentally deranged beating him.

A more serious object of attack was a group of Little Flock centers in Chekiang province ntering around Chinghua. It is claimed that there was a "Chekiang Province People's Oppose mmunism Save the Country Army", and that some of the leaders of this rebellious movement re hidden within the church. Chou Shih-lung was one of these, and when he was brought to al, the situation was considered important enough so that church leaders were brought from anghai, Hangchow and Ningpo to see the evidence and convince themselves that the govern- nt had grounds for proceeding against him and his accomplices. There are several articles on s subject.

Another center of trouble was Paotingfu. A counter-revolutionary cell composed of Chris- n laymen was found concealed in the Public Health Department of that city, and four of them re arrested in September. In addition a traveling evangelist, Kuo Chung-i, was attacked for activities in and around Mukden, and other isolated individuals in various places are brought ler attack.

We have already referred to Shanghai Catholic Bishop Ignatius Kung. There are several icles "exposing" the crimes of this man and his colleagues. Another Catholic incident con- ns a Catholic orphanage in Lungt'ien, Futsing county, Fukien, where the Protestant leaders hat county were brought together at Lungt'ien to view a common grave where the Catholics d buried many infants who had died in the orphange, and to join in the condemnation of ir inhumanity.

Another instance of this condemnatory spirit occurs in the article on "New Life in the ina Bible House." The second paragraph reads, "In the fall of 1954, the General Secretary he China Bible House, Baen Lee, was arrested on a charge of counter-revolutionary activity. is was a shocking thing. Although the country had already been liberated for several years, d although the imperialist elements had already left the country, still the imperialist spirit minated the Bible House, and attempted through this agent to continue its control, and thus ntinue to serve imperialism." (When it is remembered that Baen Lee was later released by Government, with an apology for having wrongfully arrested him, this readiness of a Chris- n magazine to believe the worst of a Christian colleague, without any tangible evidence ainst him, cannot but be deplored.)

(1955 seems like a very dismal year for the Christian church in China, according to this ort. There is a brighter side, reports of more constructive activities within the church, and se we shall report in the next issue.)

THOLIC NEWS

The drive to get priests and sisters to attend Communist indoctrination courses is increasing ntensity, according to the January Mission Bulletin of Hong Kong. This drive is a follow-up he Catholic Patriotic Association set up last summer. The Government Bureau of Religious airs has recently made a report outlining a threefold government plan for the supervision of Catholic Church by that Patriotic Association. It stated:

1. The Catholic Church in China is to be concerned with organizing political arguments l studies of current situations and government policies.
2. Bishops, priests and sisters are to implement the education of the people in Communism learning seriously themselves, positively leading the faithful to study and encouraging them participate in various events in social activity and production competition.
3. Time allowed for religious services will be used to propagate among the faithful the icies and instructions of the government and to help the government execute its policies re- ding religion.

Many arrests took place in the closing months of 1957, under such charges as: proclaiming t Catholics must submit unconditionally to Rome; sabotaging the Peking meeting and the ablishment of the Patriotic Association; saying that the Legion of Mary is not a reactionary

organization; denying the sacraments to "progressive" Catholics.

Later Catholic news (IFS of January 18) tells of the imprisonment of Bishop Joseph Hu of Taichow, Administrator Apostolic Paul Su of Yunkia, and Vicar Capitular John Wang of Ningp for terms ranging from ten to twenty years. Bishop Hu is now 76 years of age. Archbishop Dominic Tang of Canton has been imprisoned with one of his priests. Archbishop Joseph Chow Nanchang has been released from prison, after several years, but continues under house arrest. American bishop James Walsh continues in Shanghai, but cannot have contact with Chinese Catholics.

AFTER PRIMARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL

This is the title of an article in the December People's China by Shih Wei-san, Vice-Director of the Department of Middle School Education, Ministry of Education. It is concerne with the same problem that we have already seen discussed by Dr. Wu Yi-fang (October 28, 1957 Bulletin), namely, how to reconcile primary or middle school graduates to their lot when they are not allowed to go farther with their schooling. The dissatisfaction felt is due to the fact that during the past few years "practically all those who finished senior middle school wer able to enter college," thus setting up in the minds of present day graduates an expectation which has not been fulfilled. These graduates are now being urged to look with more respect upon a life of manual labor. It is also stated that the government will look with favor upon th opening of private schools to supplement the government school system, and will also encoura boys and girls to organize self-study groups. But for all those who are old enough, the solution is to go to work, and preferably on the farm.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Gustav Nystrom, missionary in China of the Swedish Covenant Church 1924-49 and in Hong Kong 1949-52, died suddenly while playing the organ for the Christmas service in Immanuel Church, Stockholm. Mr. Nystrom went to China as Dag Hammerskjold's interprete in 1955, and again in 1956 with Bishop Manikam of India, when they were visitors at the 1956 Protestant Conference in Peking. When the news reached his lifelong friend, Rev. Marcus Cheng, he wrote the following letter: "My dear brother Gustav: On Christmas morning when the others sang and played "When Christmas morning comes, I shall go to the stall," you instead went to meet your God, to whom you belonged and whom you truly served all your life. I am ill myself and in all probability shall soon follow you and see you again. It will be a wonderful reunion!" He then goes on to speak of his two visits to China, and to call him a bridge between the churches of China and the West.

CHURCH NEWS

In 1957 the British Council of Churches sent an invitation to the Three Self Movement in China for an exchange of visiting delegations. It has now received a reply "regretting that du to the number of delegations already arranged in the near future it would not be possible at pre ent to receive a deputation from the British Churches or to send one from the Chinese Churche to Britain." (Quoted from the BCC Bulletin.) The President of the Council, the Archbishop o Canterbury, has however stated that he expects some Chinese bishops to be present at the Lam beth Conference this year.

Southern Baptist Survey Bulletin of January 20 reports: Word has been received that Hei Lin, former president of the University of Shanghai, a fourth generation Christian, and Baptist leader in China, has been put in prison again. Only a year ago he was released after several years of imprisonment.

GENERAL NEWS

The attention of our readers is called to the December number of Current History, devot to a study of Communist China, with a series of articles with the following subjects: The Chi nese-Russian Partnership; British Relations with China; China: United States Dilemma; Comm nist China and the Kuomintang; China in Southeast Asia; and The Chinese-Japanese Courtship Excerpts are also given of Mao Tse-tung's speech on Contradictions, a speech given last Febru ary, but not published until June.

A great country-wide irrigation campaign was carried on in the three months of October to December, 1957. During that period, Peking announced on January 4, China's irrigated farmland increased by 3.1 million hectares. Shantung, Anhwei, Shansi, Shensi, Kansu, and other provinces all figure in the irrigation news. The scope of the project is suggested by the statement that in the one province of Shantung alone, some eight million youths were engage in the digging of ditches, basins and wells, and the construction of reservoirs and dykes.